NUMISMATIC
Literary Guild
NEWSLETTER
June, 1969

Vol. 2, No. 6 Santa Ana, California

BALLOT TIME

The enclosed ballot marks the FIRST election of Board members by the members of this organization. Current Board Members were volunteers who, in the spirit of cooperativeness, have guided the Numismatic Literary Guild during its first year of growth. Jim Betten, Cale Jarvis, Mort Goodman, Gordon Greene, and Jim Miller deserve the thanks of all members for their assistance. The organization's constitution will be a continual reminder and tribute to the men who charted the first rules.

THANKS, BUT .....

Several members have been kind enough to place the acting Executive Director and editor of this publication on the ballot for a Board position in 1970. It is with sincere regret that I (Lee Martin) must decline the honor but it would be inadvisable to run for office and be involved in counting the ballots. In addition, it is my personal belief that one term in office, at this early stage of organizational development, is sufficient. The greater the involvement by members, the more secure the Guild will be.

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OUR NOMINEES

Among the dozen members whose names have been placed in nomination are some who have not accepted as yet. Lack of correspondence may indicate the nominee will not decline but it should be recognized that time has not allowed personal contact with all names on the list.

Members from Sidney, Ohio were withdrawn from nomination because of company policy. In addition to the dozen members whose names are on the ballot, a blank area has been inserted for a write-in candidate. The vote should be for five members for the all important position of Board Member.

The ballot is enclosed with this newsletter.

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LITERARY GUILD BADGE

A color photo of a badge, designed and created by Gordon Greene, has been enclosed. The gold-color badge will be of two types, Type one will have bright red ribbon and red letters to match the card of each member. Charter members will have that fact indicated by a metal strip over the ribbon. Type two is a badge similar in all respects but with a blue ribbon and lettering. A typewriter is dominant on the design and represents extensive effort to find a source (the typewriter platen actually moves). Members may purchase the complete badge for $7.50. Because delivery will require a month and to ensure having it in time for the A.N.A. Convention, orders are being accepted immediately. Please include payment with your order. It is only available to members of the Guild and signifies recognition in your field.

See next Page.

MEET YOUR MEMBERS
(Alphabetical Order)

Russell Rulau

Editor of "World Coins" and the "Numismatic Scrapbook". This distinctive title applies to one of the hardest working, and most conscientious individuals, in our hobby. Russ is a Fellow in the Royal Numismatic Society, belongs to the A.N.A., TAMS, C.N.A., OIN and most of the other major organizations. He has written the important listing of World Mint Marks and a book on U.S. Game Counters. In addition to the publications he heads, his efforts have been seen in Calcoin News, The Numismatist, Numismatic News, and the TAM Journal.

His recent trip to Israel resulted in some of the most interesting articles and gave indications of his warmth and why Russ is so appreciated throughout the coin field.

Mrs. Rulau (Darlene) is his inspiration and illustrates his good taste. Russ reads every publication applicable to his work and the "plus ninety" he subscribes to indicate the demands on his leisure time and the understanding of his spouse. His numismatic specialties encompass game counters, world coins and paper money.

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Margo Russell (Mrs. Marion Russell)

Introducing the lady with a delightful smile and a wonderful spirit of friendliness. Margo is the well known editor of "Coin World" and her crisp interesting editorials form an important part of each issue.

Short biographies rarely do more than touch the components that form the individual. To try and illustrate why everyone holds Margo in such high regard would require a book - - a very heavy one! She is a member of all major organizations plus many regional and state groups. Her editorial hand was involved in the very enjoyable "Coin Collecting For Fun And Profit" and the "Guide To Coins".

The Sidney News Publishing Company also has hubby Marion Russell associated with them. He is editor of the local newspaper and thus the Russells form a unique combination of literary professionals.

Margo did not indicate her numismatic specialties but if they are as diversified as her numismatic involvements, she encompasses the entire "Coin World".

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Paul Rynearson

The greatest reward any editor receives is the personal contact with writers. One of the joys in publishing this newsletter has been the association with individuals such as Paul Rynearson. Paul specializes in Ancient Greek, Roman, and Byzantine coinage. His book, "Byzantine Coin Values" has produced added interest in a very specialized field. Paul's articles have appeared in Coins, COINage, World Coins, and The Numismatist.

His well written articles must be an outgrowth of his other profession of music. (He writes beautiful numismatic lyrics). He plays the piano and flute and undoubtedly serenades his lovely wife, Nicole. She shares his interests in ancient coins and is a very valuable asset with her proof reading and typing abilities. Paul describes himself as a Classical Numismatist. The first syllable should be spelled in capitals.

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Neil Shafer

Author of such books as the "Guide Book of Philippine Paper Money", "U.S. Territorial Coinage For The Philippines", and the "Guide Book of Modern U.S. Currency". Neil has been represented in the Numismatic Scrapbook, the MANA Journal and the Whitman Numismatic Journal. The latter publication, a highly respected coin journal, was enriched by Neil who was an associate editor.

Neil belongs to O.I.N., M.A.N.A., the Philippine Numismatic and Antique Society, and is a life member of the A.N.A. One of the interesting aspects of personal collections is the motivation producing the specialty. Neil

prefers foreign paper money and his research into this field may have had the added impetus that produced his hobby, his assigned book and undoubtedly some of the excellent articles he has written. In addition to his full time position with the Western Publishing Company, Producers of the famed Whitman Hobby Books, Neil continues his research into the numismatic world. Unfortunately, his biography is as modest as Neil himself is and very few of his successes are detailed. Those who know him (and who in our field does not?) recognize him for what he is - - a specialist, an expert in the hobby and a consistent creator of important writings.

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MEMBERSHIPS OPEN

Have you placed any names for membership approval? Sponsorship is limited to one per member per year. Very few have submitted new and qualified names for contact. Please include addresses if available. Regular staff members of numismatic publications are automatically qualified for membership and thus do not eliminate the one-per-year ruling by members who notify the Guild of prospects. May we hear from you?

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NOW IS THE TIME!

One of the prime reasons for the birth of the Numismatic Literary Guild is the recognition of individuals who write for numismatic publications. Intra-publication competition is not desirable, so please submit names of individuals who submit articles (by-lined) on a regular basis for each of the major coin periodicals. Among those who qualify for Guild recognition are columnists, staff writers and free lance authors who are regularly represented in the numismatic field.

Hard and fast rules for judging will not be given for the basic view is to honor the writer who brings pleasure to the reader. Obviously, accurate, interesting and informative articles are imperative but style should certainly be considered. Unfortunately, the need for by-lined material in judging eliminates recognition of editorial expertness and perhaps this category can be emphasized next year. Nominations for awards are needed before the August Guild meeting. May we hear from you NOW?

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CAN YOU HELP?

We are in need of listings of your magician tokens. (See last month).....

Eight to ten million collectors is the most popular figure given for the number of hobbyists. What is your view as to the total number of collectors who do more than place coins into desk drawers? How many hard-core collectors? (Defined as those who subscribe to publications and maintain collections). Finally, how many people do you think have become collectors in the past year? What is the source of your opinion?

Busy writers have been unable to submit columns for this issue. If you have the time, we have the space and the best readers in the hobby to publish your latest short article.

Curators have not been receiving adequate representation in this newsletter. The fault is the editor's for not having insight into this very vital numismatic field. Among the institutions represented in the N.L.G. are the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Detroit Money Museum, American Numismatic Society, and the Smithsonian Institute. This publication represents a link between curators. Articles detailing future plans, past problems or just a quick "hello" would be welcome. Curators, are you listening?

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THE OBOL

The OBOL is a journal of Hellenic, Byzantine and Balkan Numismatics. The Guild Library just received Vol. III, No. 1 which features a review of the "Six Gold Coins of Philippi", translated by Betty Gardiakos from Paul Lambros' original manuscript (published in Greece 1854 and in French in 1855). The paper is an extremely specialized one and should

be of interest to those who enjoy a condensed version of coins of one Grecian City.

The OBOL may be contacted at P.O. Box 907, Oak Park, Illinois 60301. Subscription rates are $2 per year.

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A NEW BOOK

OBOL International also forwarded a soft cover book entitled "Unpublished Coins Struck At Glarentza In Imitation of Venetian by Robert of Taranto, Sovereign of Peloponneus (1346-1364)" by Paul Lambros, translated by Betty Giardiakos. NOW THERE IS A TITLE!

The book consists of 32 pages featuring a listing of Gold Ducats and is evenly divided between English and Greek languages. Interesting line drawings form the plates illustrating the 31 coins described in the publication. The book is available for only $2.00 from OBOL International, same address as listed above.

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COLLECT CYPRUS COINS

The popular numismatic publishing firm of Malter-Westerfield has released a new handbook for collectors of modern Cyprus coins. The soft cover book by T. J. Fitikides is an easy to read coated stock publication and encompasses the 1879-1968 releases of Cyprus. The cover design is warm and attractive and should draw much attention to an area that has been gaining in collector interest.

We liked the Geraldine Bruckner quote of "Money is the picture book of history".

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ARE YOU USING THE NEWSLETTER?

Several applications have stressed an important reason for the existence of the Numismatic Literary Guild. They indicate the Guild is a good place for writers, curators, editors and publishers to make contacts and interchange ideas. The conclusion is a logical one and should allow members to understand the problems of others in the field.

Unfortunately, very few of the members have taken time to express views or to do more than indicate interest. Why not utilize the newsletter to say hello and more - - to fellow members?

APPLICATION PENDING

John Baker, publisher of the "99" newsletter and well traveled President of that firm, has forwarded an application for Guild membership. He is sponsored by Margo Russell and some of his writings have appeared in Coin World.

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FOR YOUR LIBRARY

The "Abraham Lincoln Commemoration Ceremony" honoring the 100th anniversary of his second inauguration was an important 1965 event. Lincoln researchers will enjoy the book issued by the Government Printing Office and available for $3.00 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Gov. Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The book features many interesting photos, a reenactment of the original ceremony and a bonus program of the ceremony is included with each book.

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THE PRESS ROOM

Suite A, in the Delaware Valley Suite on the third floor will be open to Guild members and family during the week long convention. It has been suggested that members make each day from 3:00 to 5:00 the moment of contact. The Guild meeting will be listed in the August newsletter and will be open only to members. Installation of new Board Members, presentation of the second annual "Clemmy Award", photo awards and a general report of Guild activities will be among the business to be completed.

The Press Room will be visited by the non-numismatic press and decorations emphasizing each coin publication should be furnished. Wall space will be limited but a card 4'x8' can be utilized. May we count on you to tell the world about your organization?

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COURTESY HONG KONG NOODLE COMPANY...

A Chinese restaurant fortune cooky read as follows: "The writer is much like a marksman. He must load properly, aim carefully and fire skillfully or he will miss the target."

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CRUTCHES AND CRUMBS
J. McKay-Clements

Maury Gould's pointers on how to dig up material for coin columns proved very interesting. Here are three examples of my own during the last week or two.

1. A report in Engineering Digest (Canadian Engineering Publications Ltd., Toronto) quoting the head of a chemical laboratory, he gave the chemical breakdown of the human body (including traces of gold and silver) with present day market value. From this, the human body has more silver and gold in it (even ignoring the dental work) than our present Canadian coinage. Will use the data to stress the changes in our coinage.
2. A report in the business section of one of our Canadian daily papers mentioned the "gold-rimmed Ben Franklin reading glasses" - of the Chairman of the (Canadian) Tariff Board. Made a note to check if the Franklin Liberty Bell half dollar depicts Franklin wearing his famous glasses - result - NO. More research on which coins do show famous men wearing spectacles - - and an interesting item for my column.
3. A letter from a reader asking if a coin showing a Roman centurian on one side and a wolf on the other, has any value. Some research on this particular reverse and another interesting item for my friends.

KATEN'S LIST

It is doubtful if any Guild member is unaware of the numismatic publication listing produced by Frank and Laurese Katen.

In the thirty-one years they have been involved in the hobby as professional numismatists, they have produced more sales of literature pertaining to the coin hobby than practically any other source.

Their March 1969 catalog features 128 pages of books, magazines, newspapers and catalogs. Specialties range from Africa through the Visigoth period. Subscriptions cost $2 for four issues and offer a superb source for hard to locate publications. This outstanding duo can be contacted at P.O. Box 4271, Takoma Park Station, Washington, D.C.20012. If you need a specific book NOW, call (301) 384-9444.

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IS AN ELONGATED COIN LEGAL?

The question "Is an elongated coin legal?" was recently asked in this newsletter. No answer was received but a current TEC NEWS has Lloyd Wagaman quoting Section 331, Title 18 of the U.S. code: "Prohibits, among other things, the fraudulent alteration and mutilation of United States and foreign coins. This statute does NOT prohibit the mutilation of coins if done without fraudulent intent. Wagaman continues: "it is, however, illegal to stamp or print an advertisement on coins or currency and then pass such a piece in payment of goods. This would not apply in the case of an elongated coin because once a coin has been elongated, it can not be passed as a coin nor used in a vending machine. Wagaman concludes: "cut-out jewelry is also legal as there is no intent to defraud".

Incidentally, the last time another club publication was used as a news source, it created an error in an inadvertent "joke" that was printed as an April Fool gag and not recognized as such. The Secret Service is NOT picking up error coins.

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SEE YOU AT THE A.N.A. CONVENTION
By Maurice M. Gould

This year the American Numismatic Association Convention will be held in Philadelphia from August 12th through the 17th. This should be the most exciting convention in numismatic history and a great majority of our members will be in attendance. Actually, this is a twin-celebration with the dedication of the new Philadelphia Mint on August 14th and the dedication of the new Franklin Mint facilities on August 15th. This, in addition to the many groups who meet once a year at the A.N.A., the educational forums, the exhibits, and the renewing of old friendships, make for a never-to-be-forgotten week.

One of the gripes I have, which I am sure affects many of us, is that there is too much doing at this convention -- too many meetings and too much crammed into such a short period of time. The most offensive and aggravating from my viewpoint is to have two or three meetings scheduled at the same time, ones in which I am greatly interested, and I have to select one that I must attend and forego the others. I know the busy members of our group find themselves in the same situation.

Until now, we have managed to survive, but the time has come when there are too many groups and too many meetings and the A.N.A. Board of Governors will have to come up with a solution, with an answer acceptable to all.

N.L.G. will have its annual meeting amid the tumult and furore and I hope this year we can have a more constructive meeting, as we have so little time to take care of our business. May I make one suggestion to all who will attend? Let us be serious and help the Chairman. Last year there was a great deal of unseemly noise and inattention and I would humbly suggest that the meeting be limited to members and their spouses and associate members. In this manner we can get the work done efficiently and quickly.

If set up properly, N.L.G. can do a great deal, not only for its members, but for numismatics as well and this should be uppermost in our minds. We can be a great force with assistance for the right projects to aid the hobby and when we can act collectively, our voices can be heard 'round the world.

Personally, I have great hopes for N.L.G. and feel it has moved forward in its comparatively short existance. Our membership is the elite in numismatic literary world and we hope we can follow along the lines of the American Philatelic Society which has a sub-division called "The Writers Unit".

I am looking forward to seeing you at the convention. Please keep the time free if possible for our meeting as we need the largest possible attemdance to help accomplish our goals.

N.L.G. BOARD MEMBERS

Gordon Greene, Treasurer
James Betton Cale Jarvis Mort Goodman James Miller

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NUMISMATIC
LITERARY GUILD
Post Office Box 10039
Santa Ana, California 92711

Executive Director
Lee Martin

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